

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137532

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KS,

SUBJECT: EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN ON PRESIDENT PARK'S VIEWS

REF: SEOUL 4157

1. EVANS/NOVAK JUNE 12 COLUMN REPORTING DISCUSSION WITH
PRESIDENT PARK GIVES PARK'S COMMENTS REGARDING ROK
NUCLEAR CAPABILITY SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TWIST THAN DESCRIBED
REFTEL.

2. TEXT OF COLUMN RELATING TO ROK NUCLEAR INTENTIONS IS
AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE, VOWING TO FIGHT FOR THE
LAST INCH OF LAND EVEN IF U.S. FORCES LEAVE KOREA, TOLD
US SOUTH KOREA COULD AND WOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN NUCLEAR
WEAPONS IF THE U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA IS WITHDRAWN.

.....HE NEXT CONFIRMED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SOUTH KOREA,
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IF ABANDONED BY THE U.S., WOULD GO NUCLEAR. 'WE HAVE

THE CAPABILITY,' THE PRESIDENT SAID, BUT ARE NOT DEVELOP-
ING IT AND ARE HONORING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY. THEN HE BLUNTLY ADDED: 'IF THE U.S. NUCLEAR

UMBRELLA WERE TO BE REMOVED, WE HAVE TO START DEVELOP-
ING OUR NUCLEAR CAPABILITY TO SAVE OURSELVES. UNQUOTE

3. WE EXPECT PARK'S COMMENTS TO CAUSE SIGNIFICANT RE-
ACTION. IF AVAILABLE, REQUEST EMBASSY SECURE AND FORWARD
TO DEPARTMENT EXACT TEXT OF PARK'S INTERVIEW, PARTICULAR-
LY WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR QUESTION.

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